

## Personal Notification of Availability

AHRQ offers Internet users an opportunity to sign up for personal notification of the availability of future AHRQ QI software. All you need is a computer, Internet access, and an E-mail address. It works just like other electronic distribution lists. This service is free.

To register, follow these easy steps:

1. Send an E-mail message to:  
listserv@qualityindicators.ahrq.gov
2. On the subject line, type: Subscribe.  
(For example: Subscribe)
3. In the body of the message type:  
sub Quality\_Indicators-L and then your full name. (For example: sub Quality\_Indicators-L and John Doe)

You will receive a message confirming that you are signed up.

## References

AHRQ Quality Indicators. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; 2001. [www.ahrq.gov/data/hcup/qinext.htm](http://www.ahrq.gov/data/hcup/qinext.htm)

Refinement of the HCUP Quality Indicators. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; 2001. [www.ahrq.gov/data/hcup/qirefine.htm](http://www.ahrq.gov/data/hcup/qirefine.htm)

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Public Health Service  
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Official Business  
Penalty for Private Use \$300

AHRQ Quality Indicators

# Inpatient Quality Indicators

*A new tool to help health system leaders  
assess quality of in-hospital care*



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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
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## Inpatient Quality Indicators—

- Can be used to help hospitals identify potential problem areas that might need further study.
- Can provide an indirect measure of in-hospital quality of care by using administrative data found in a typical discharge record.
- Include 13 *mortality* indicators for conditions or procedures for which mortality can vary from hospital to hospital.
- Include 9 *utilization* indicators for procedures for which utilization varies across hospitals or geographic areas.
- Include 7 *volume* indicators for procedures for which outcomes may be related to the volume of those procedures performed.
- Are free and publicly available.
- Can be downloaded from AHRQ's Web site at [www.ahrq.gov/data/hcup/inpatqi.htm](http://www.ahrq.gov/data/hcup/inpatqi.htm).

The *Inpatient Quality Indicators* form the second of a three-part set of new **AHRQ Quality Indicators** (QIs) developed by Stanford University and the University of California, under a contract with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). The AHRQ QIs expand the original HCUP Quality Indicators—a set of measures originally developed from the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP). The *Prevention Quality Indicators*, the first set of AHRQ QIs, were released in November 2001.



The Inpatient Quality Indicators provide a perspective on hospital quality of care using hospital administrative data, which are readily available and relatively inexpensive to use.

### *Mortality rates for conditions*

- Acute myocardial infarction
- Congestive heart failure
- Gastrointestinal hemorrhage
- Hip fracture
- Pneumonia
- Stroke

### *Mortality rates for procedures*

- Abdominal aortic aneurysm repair
- Coronary artery bypass graft
- Craniotomy
- Esophageal resection
- Hip replacement
- Pancreatic resection
- Pediatric heart surgery

### *Hospital-level procedure utilization rates*

- Cesarean section delivery
- Incidental appendectomy in the elderly
- Bi-lateral cardiac catheterization
- Vaginal birth after Cesarean section
- Laparoscopic cholecystectomy

### *Area-level utilization rates*

- Coronary artery bypass graft
- Hysterectomy
- Laminectomy or spinal fusion
- Percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty

### *Volume of procedures*

- Abdominal aortic aneurysm repair
- Carotid endarterectomy
- Coronary artery bypass graft
- Esophageal resection
- Pancreatic resection
- Pediatric heart surgery
- Percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty

## Other AHRQ QI Software

*Prevention Quality Indicators*—A set of 16 indicators representing hospital admission rates for common ambulatory care sensitive conditions. Hospitalization for these types of conditions can often be avoided with appropriate use of high-quality, community-based primary care services. The Prevention Quality Indicators can be readily downloaded from the AHRQ Web site at [www.ahrq.gov/data/hcup/prevqi.htm](http://www.ahrq.gov/data/hcup/prevqi.htm).

*Patient Safety Indicators*—A set of indicators providing information on potential in-hospital complications and patient safety concerns following surgeries, procedures, and childbirth. See the AHRQ Web site for announcement of availability of the upcoming Patient Safety Indicators and future updates to the AHRQ QI software. Or sign up for personal notification by E-mail (see “Personal Notification of Availability”).

## Additional Information for Users

The Inpatient Quality Indicator software programs can be applied to any hospital administrative data. A detailed users' guide and complete documentation for the Inpatient Quality Indicator software are available on the AHRQ Web site. Users may access these files in word processing or portable document format.

